

BROWNING'S LOSE IN BIG VEIN SUIT

Decree For \$150,000 Rendered in Favor of Lessees of Browning Mines by Judge McDowell of the Federal Court—Master To Fix Additional Amount.

Much interest was aroused last Saturday, not only locally, but throughout the Clinch Valley and Pocahontas coal fields, when it became known that Judge Henry C. McDowell, of the United States Court for the western district of Virginia, had rendered a decision in the famous suit of the Big Vein Coal Company, of Pocahontas, against James S. Browning and Mrs. Ollie H. Browning, his wife, which was instituted some time ago by Thomas T. Boswell and others of Baltimore, to recover a large amount of money, they claiming gross misrepresentation of the property by the defendants at the time the lease was made.

On March 12, 1909, the Brownings sold to Boswell a tract of land, upon which was located the Browning mines, and it was represented that they were leasing 1,057 acres of No. 3 Pocahontas seam of coal. The royalty charge on the lease was fifteen cents a ton, and in addition a bonus of \$200,000 was paid for the lease. Mr. Boswell interested other Baltimore capitalists in the property, and the Big Vein Coal Company was formed and paid to the Brownings \$75,000 of the bonus, leaving \$125,000 unpaid. The company met with financial difficulties, and was placed in the hands of a receiver by the United States district court for the western district of Virginia. Mrs. Browning appeared in the suit and asserted her claim for \$125,000, with interest. The Big Vein Coal Company, and parties interested in the same, filed a cross bill in the same proceeding asking other things, that the Brownings had misrepresented the area of coal, that instead of there being 1,057 acres, there were 328, and that they were entitled to an abatement of purchase price in the same proportion as 328 is to 1,057, which was done by the decree of the court.

Another reason offered by the Big Vein Company for a reduction of the amount of bonus, was that it had spent \$230,000 in making the plant one of the most up-to-date in the Pocahontas field, whereas an expenditure of a very much less sum would have been sufficient for all practicable purpose to mine the small area of coal actually under the property leased.

Judge McDowell in his opinion rendered says the matter of the bonus for the property should be referred to a commissioner for investigation and, if necessary, for abatement of the amount of the bonus in proportion to the amount of barren land in the lease and to recompense the Big Vein Company for the amount spent in improvements should be shown that they were in excess of the needs of the company for the area of coal to be mined. The decision does not touch the amount of minimum royalty, which was for the first three years up to April, 1912, \$22,500 a year, and subsequent to that date at the rate of \$45,000 a year.

Judge McDowell in his opinion pays high tribute to the manner in which Attorney H. Claude Pobst, of this city, handled the case as commissioner, and recommends that he be continued in the position for the purpose of adjudicating the question of abatement on the bonus.

The plaintiffs were represented by George W. St. Clair, of this place, and Ketch, Wright and Lord, of Baltimore; the defendants by Henson and Bowen, of this city, and Judge A. A. Phlegar, of Christiansburg.

Dublin Gets William and Mary Summer School.

The movement for higher education took a step forward Saturday when it was decided to establish a summer session of William and Mary at Dublin, Pulaski county, Va., and to open the eight weeks' term on June 19th.

When the board of visitors some days ago determined to hold the summer term in southwest Virginia, the definite location was left to be decided upon by the faculty. The citizens of five towns—Dublin, Radford, Pearisburg, Christiansburg and Big Stone Gap offered special inducements to have the college come to them, and the final choice of a location was difficult to make.

The fact that at Dublin the building of the Dublin Institute would be available had much to do with the selection of that town. Another inducement offered by Dublin was a grove of trees covering a hundred acres, which will be used for outdoor lecture rooms and tent sites.

This selection is looked upon as being fortunate for both Dublin and the college. It is expected that many teachers and college students from Virginia and other states will attend the summer session, thus adding materially to the summer population of the town, while it is generally agreed among school men that no better or more accessible location than Dublin could have been found. Many educators have expressed their gratification at this move to bring the advantages of higher education more fully within the reach of the people.

High Praise For The V. M. I.

In an informal talk to the first-class officers, Captain William H. Raymond, member of the general staff of the United States Army, who for several days has been inspecting the military department of the V. M. I., at Lexington, on Saturday said that there was little or nothing left to be desired as far as the military department of the institute was concerned. He said that he never in all of his experience had seen a better drilled, better disciplined body of soldiers than the V. M. I. cadets.

"The battalion here compares favorably with the finest crack companies of the United States Army," said Captain Raymond to the cadets. Not only was he pleased with the general appearance of the battalion, but was even more favorably impressed with the individual set-up and bearing of the men, and with the precision and accuracy with which they answered questions propounded to them.

The feature of the inspection which seemed to impress Captain Raymond more than any other was the parade on Friday evening. The battalion in full dress, their spotless accoutrements shining in the evening sunlight, their colors

flying, passed in review before the officer in charge. "It takes a body of men with fine esprit de corps to drill as hard as those young fellows have done," and then put up a parade like that," said the inspector to Colonel Samuel L. Gleaves, as the two watched the ceremony from under the Guard Tree. "I have never seen a finer parade in my life," he said, as the battalion marched off the hill.

Death of James M. Elliott.

James M. Elliott, formerly a conductor on the Norfolk and Western railroad, died Sunday at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Elliott, in Roanoke, after a long illness from tuberculosis. He was forty years of age, and is survived by one son, Clarence Elliott, of Hagerstown, Md.

Mr. Elliott, it will be remembered, contributed to the Republican a series of letters, the first of the year, exposing the deplorable conditions existing at the Catawba Sanatorium, where he was for a time as a patient. On account of the fact that in Virginia the state institutions are used as political plums with which to reward the henchmen of the dominant party, Mr. Elliott's letters did not have the effect of awakening the civic conscience of the people of the state as they should have had; but the time will come when efficiency, instead of servile service to the bosses, will be the qualification of appointment to state institutions, and then Mr. Elliott's efforts will be remembered with gratitude by the citizens of this old commonwealth.

Graduating Exercises at Stonewall Jackson Institute and Martha Washington College.

The commencement exercises of the two well known educational institutions at Abingdon are to be held this month. There are about 225 boarding pupils from all sections of the south at these two schools this year, and the exercises promise to be the most interesting ever held.

Exercises proper at Stonewall Jackson Institute begin May 18th with the art reception from 4 to 6 p. m. At 8 o'clock on that evening, the annual concert will take place. On the following day, Sunday, May 19th, the baccalaureate sermon will be preached at eleven o'clock by Rev. Ernest Thompson, of Charleston, W. Va., in the Presbyterian church. At 8 o'clock that evening the sermon before the Y. W. C. A. will be preached by the Rev. Dr. Henry Sweet, of Louisville, Ky.

On May 20th will be the matinee concert at 4 o'clock, and at 8 p. m. the class exercises. Tuesday evening, the 21st, at 8 o'clock, graduating exercises and the literary address by Ex-Governor Glenn, of North Carolina.

The fifty-third annual commencement of Martha Washington College begins May 25th with the art reception from 4 to 6 p. m. on the evening of the 25th, followed by the school of expression at 8 p. m. At 11 o'clock the next day the baccalaureate sermon by Dr. R. G. Watterhouse, of Los Angeles, Cal., will be preached. At 8 p. m. the Rev. N. M. Watson, of Knoxville, Tenn., will address the Y. W. C. A. At 3 p. m. on Monday, business meeting of the alumni; 8 p. m., annual concert. At 10 a. m. on Tuesday, graduating exercises and literary address by Prof. S. G. Gilbreth, of Johnson City, Tenn.

The News of Staeburg.

Staeburg, Va., April 30th. Mrs. J. H. Martin spent Sunday with Mrs. Hulda Davis at Wardell.

Misses Clara and Hazel Martin were guests of Miss Lena Nipper Sunday.

There will be preaching at this place Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Rev. Johnson.

Ira Smith spent Saturday night with his sister, Mrs. R. B. Steele, on his way back to Dante.

Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Ball and daughter, Mrs. Lena, were shopping in Richlands Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harve Griffiths, of Richlands, were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Albert Griffiths here Sunday.

Charlie Lester, Witt Wyser and John Shreve, of Wardell, were visiting friends here Sunday afternoon.

Misses Lena and Nora Nipper and brother, Andy, were visiting relatives in Baptist Valley last week. They were accompanied home by Misses Bessie and Thelma West.

John Witt, Edgar Steele and Bob Mitchell, of Paint Lick, were here Saturday on their way to Richlands to attend the closing exercises of the high school at that place.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. William Jackson was the scene of a pretty wedding at 6:30 o'clock Saturday evening, when their daughter, Miss Amanda Jane, became the bride of Mr. George Robinson, of Belfast, Va. The ceremony which made the twain one was impressively performed by the Rev. J. H. Russell, of Cedar Bluff. An elegant supper was served following the ceremony. The present besides the family of the bride were: Miss Lula and Will Robinson, sister and brother of the groom; Clarence Ratliff, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Steele and daughter, Miss Mabel.

King College Improvements.

Ground will be broken on next Monday, May 6th, at King College, in Bristol, for the Alumni and Old Students' building, to cost \$15,000. The annual field day exercises of the college will be held the same day, and a large attendance is anticipated.

The new building will contain gymnasium, society halls, library and chapel, and will be a most valuable addition to the college plant. Appropriate exercises will accompany the beginning of the work of construction.

At night the new president of the college, Rev. Tilden Scherer, will give an informal reception in the Caldwell-Tadlock hall to the student body and their friends.

ART

is one of the special topics of the "Sunday Philadelphia Press." Criticisms of the current exhibits of artists and sculptors are accompanied by exact reproductions of the most striking achievements. An occasional full page special article gives additional interest. Music is another aesthetic feature of the Sunday Edition. Give your home a newspaper that is complete, an issue that supplies the worlds news and special treatment of its biggest subjects. Introduce a number to your family that means education.

PRETTY WEDDING AT ASBERRY.

Miss Shrader Becomes The Bride Of Mr. Taylor—Other Local Items.

Asberry, Va., April 29th. Andrew Correll is confined to his room with a badly sprained ankle.

Mrs. J. O. Neal returned Wednesday from a visit to friends in West Virginia.

Mrs. J. H. Ashworth, of Dayton, Ohio, visited her sister, Mrs. J. O. Neal, here last week.

Mr. and Mrs. James Vanhoozer are the proud parents of a fine boy, which arrived the 27th.

James Neal returned Friday from Grayson county, where he had been for several days buying cattle.

Left Shrader is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Shrader, and sister, Mrs. E. R. Neal, at this place.

Robert, the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Vanhoozer, was severely burned Friday by falling in the fire.

Mrs. Mattie Brooks and son, W. J., have been on the sick list for several days, as have also Mrs. Samuel Bolding and son, William.

Mrs. Lizzie Hoops attended the marriage of her sister, Miss Pearl Shrader, at this place on Wednesday last week returning to Tazewell Friday to resume her studies in the high school.

Our little burg was very much enlivened over the visit Friday of Messrs. Cregar and Peery, members of the advisory roads committee, and all hope the road building is close at hand.

On Wednesday, the 24th, a beautiful wedding was solemnized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Shrader, of this place, when they gave in marriage their daughter, Miss Pearl, to Mr. James Taylor, of Tazewell. The ceremony was performed at 2:30. The parlor was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and presented a charming scene when, to the strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march, played by Mrs. W. O. Neal, the young couple took their position facing the Rev. J. R. King, who in a beautiful and impressive ceremony pronounced them man and wife.

The happy occasion was witnessed only by relatives of the contracting parties and a few very near friends. The bride was gown in a beautiful embroidered white suit, and could hardly have impressed the assembled group of friends in a manner more pleasing. At the conclusion of the ceremony and after congratulations, the guests were ushered into the dining room, where a sumptuous dinner was served in true "old Virginia style." The young couple were the recipients of many beautiful and useful presents. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Shrader, and an amiable young lady of many pleasing traits of heart and hand. The groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Taylor, of Tazewell, and has many friends there who will welcome him and his bride among them. The many friends in Tazewell county will find great pleasure in extending hearty congratulations and good wishes on this happy occasion.

How to Make Paint.

Take 10 gallons of L. & M. Pant made of pure Lead, Zinc and Linseed Oil at \$2.10 per gallon. Add 7 gallons of Linseed Oil at \$1.00 per gallon, and make 17 gallons of pure Paint at a cost of only \$1.65 per gallon.

It's the best paint that can be made. It's \$7.70 less cost than same quantity of any other high grade pure Paint. Call on J. A. Greever, Tazewell, Va.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

As a tribute of respect to their president, Mrs. George W. St. Clair, and to express their sympathy in her bereavement in the loss of her mother, Mrs. George Walker, of Staunton, there was no meeting of the Woman's Club on yesterday.

Want your boy look well? Want clothes that will stand the wear and tear that boys give them and still look well and last until the boy outgrows them? If so, call and examine our stock. We have them.

W. T. Witten & Company.

The Music Club were the guests of Mrs. Henry Preston on last Saturday. A biographical sketch of Max Buch was read by Mrs. Barnes Gillespie, followed by the cantata, "Fair Ellen," by the Club. Dainty refreshments were served at the close of the program.

On Monday Charles B. Smith and Miss Julia M. Harold were united in marriage by Rev. J. R. King in the county clerk's office at this place. The ceremony attracted quite a crowd of interested spectators, who enjoyed the novelty of a marriage being celebrated in the court house.

Grover Cleveland Boles and Miss Ethel M. L. Rutherford, both of Gratton, were united in marriage at the Presbyterian manse at this place on last Sunday by Rev. S. O. Hall. The young couple will make their home on Clear Fork, and their many friends extend congratulations.

Robert Wiley, of Bland, is the guest this week of his uncle, W. L. Britton, and family, at North Tazewell. Mr. Wiley, who is an employee of the Southern Railway, in Georgia, was injured some time ago while in the discharge of duties, and has been spending his time recuperating at his home in Bland.

There will be a May party on the lawn at the residence of Capt. A. J. Tynes on last Friday night, May 3rd. The Queen of the May, with a full retinue of attendants, will be there to make pleasant those attending. The party is under the auspices of the Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian church, and a cordial invitation is extended the public to be present on this occasion.

William Byrd Henry, who has been visiting his parents, Major and Mrs. R. Henry, for several weeks, left Tuesday for Chicago, where he will make his future home. He expressed himself as loth to leave "little old New York," where he has been practicing law for the past nine years, but a flattering offer from one of the largest firms in Chicago called him to the metropolis of the west.

The well known Litz family, natives of this county, have agreed to free the James G. Litz Children's Home at Bluefield of all indebtedness. The home will remain a public institution, and the public allowed to contribute to its support, but the Litz brothers feeling, that on account of the home bearing their family name, it should be freed of debt by them. This will insure the permanency of this most worthy charity.

A pretty home wedding was solemnized in LaFollette, Tenn., on Wednesday last week, when Miss Mamie Dudley, of that place, became the bride of Mr. Joseph Riley, of Shraders, this county. The bride is the daughter of Mr. David Dudley, a former resident of this county, and a highly accomplished young lady. Mr. Riley is a prosperous merchant at Shraders, and is highly esteemed by all who know him. The happy couple arrived here Saturday en route to their home at Shraders.

ODD FELLOWS CELEBRATE.

92nd Anniversary Observed by Fraternity at Pounding Mill—Other Items.

Pounding Mill, Va., May 1st. James Mulkey and David Cable are both on the sick list this week.

John B. Gillespie made a business trip to Laurel and Sandy today.

Miss Alice Mulkey, of Graham, spent the day here Sunday with Miss Lettie Ringstaff.

Miss Lettie Lovell, of Richlands, visited her sisters, Misses Ocie and Jennie, at this place Sunday.

Mesdames John and William Asbury had as their guests Sunday Mr. and Mrs. George Wyatt, of Cedar Bluff.

Alex Altizer has moved his family from over Steele, Hurt & Co's. store to the Gillespie cottage opposite the station.

A card received here the other day from Miss Wyrene Lester stated that she had arrived safely in Seattle, Washington.

Mrs. Mollie Hurt, of Indian, spent Sunday night and Monday at this place with W. B. Steele and family and Mrs. Ollie Hurt.

James Mulkey had a valuable cow seriously hurt by a train on Sunday. One of her legs was broken and other injuries sustained.

Misses Allie Wyatt, Annie Luttrell and Ethel Wingo, of Indian, were here on last Sunday, the guests of Misses Cora and Gusie Christian.

Rev. and Mrs. Ezra Linkous, of Indian, and P. H. Williams, of the Cove, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Sparks here on last Sunday.

Mrs. M. J. Sturgill spent Sunday at Maxwell, and heard the Rev. Wilson, of Big Stone Gap, deliver two excellent sermons at the Church of God.

Misses Mary and Kate Hurt, Jessie and Ollie Kate Gillespie and Florence Harris spent the day Saturday with Miss Lizzie Gillespie, at Gillespie.

Miss Mayme Wynn, of Baptist Valley, was here last week on her way home from Tazewell, where she had been visiting her uncle, Morgan Wynn, and family.

Miss Marybelle Altizer returned yesterday from a short visit to her sister, Mrs. Alex Beavers, at Coalman. Mr. and Mrs. Beavers moved there last week from Maxwell.

The ninety-second anniversary of the founding of the order of Odd Fellows was celebrated here on last Sunday by local members of the fraternity, all in full regalia. Rev. Ezra Linkous delivered an interesting address on Odd Fellowship, and was followed in a short but appropriate talk by Rev. G. R. Thomas, both of which were greatly enjoyed by the large crowd present.

On Tuesday night we had a most excellent address by Mrs. Mary O'Keefe, of Tazewell, followed by one of the best temperance lectures we have ever had the pleasure of listening to, by Mrs. Dr. Ropp, of Shenandoah, Va. Mrs. Ropp has her whole soul in this work, and is a fluent and charming speaker. She will go to Honaker this morning and lecture there tonight. Mrs. Ropp visited her sister, Mrs. M. W. Baker, at this place about 17 years ago, and is well remembered by many of our citizens, who met her on that occasion. She is the daughter of Major Hortenstein, of Wallaces' Switch, Washington county, and brother of John Hortenstein, who died in the west recently shortly after his return from the Philippines, where he served as a soldier in

the United States army. Her other brother, James Hortenstein, a civil engineer, who has been assisting in the construction of the Panama Canal for the past three years, is now in Cuba. He will shortly return to the States to claim as his bride one of Abingdon's fairest daughters.

East Swords Creek News.

East Swords Creek, Va., April 29. C. W. Robinson, of Bondtown, is visiting homefolks at this place.

H. F. and J. H. Robinson were business visitors to Raven Saturday.

Miss Heaton Hall was the guest of Mrs. Polly Robinett near Big Lick Friday.

Miss Maude Robinson was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Elkins on last Friday.

Mrs. Mary Elkins and little daughter, Beulah, were visiting Mrs. J. C. Hall at this place Saturday.

A pretty wedding was solemnized on Wednesday last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Barrett near France, when their daughter, Miss Rosalie, became the bride of Mr. Will Robinson, of this place. Their many friends wish them much happiness.

J. H. Boyd, of this place, received a painful injury to one leg on last Saturday while at work in an old field. He was engaged in clearing away some small shrubbery and run a dead limb into his ear, the wound of which has caused him no small amount of trouble and pain.

BURKES GARDEN.

Items of Interest Concerning People You Know and Hear Talked Of.

Burkes Garden, Va., April 29. Steve Fox was the guests of E. L. Grubb Sunday.

Mr. Alex Meek spent Sunday night with Paul Gose.

Mrs. John P. Gose was shopping in Tazewell on Monday.

Miss Sarah Davis was shopping in Tazewell last Thursday.

Joe White, of the Cove was in the Garden part of last week.

Miss Lucretia Nahood was the guest of Mrs. A. M. McGinnis Sunday.

Miss Bettie Groselove was the guest of Rev. and Mrs. E. L. Richie Sunday.

Mrs. E. L. Grubb is visiting her sister, Mrs. M. D. Huddle, at Ceres, Va.

Isaac Spracher and sister Larena were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Rhudy last Sunday.

Mrs. Carl Kitts returned Sunday from a visit to friends and relatives at Graham.

Mr. Wayne Wilson, of Ceres, Va., was visiting relatives in the Garden Thursday night.

Arthur Peery, of Glades Springs, was the guest at the home of Mr. George Moss Sunday.

Trubie Suiter, of Bland spent Sunday with his wife and little son who are visiting homefolks here.

Mrs. E. L. Rhudy, who has been visiting here parents at Groselove, Va., returned home Monday.

Hubert Bailey, of North Tazewell was the guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Long Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Cassell and children were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Meek Hoge Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Meek were calling on the former mother, Mrs. Jand Meek Sunday afternoon.

Miss Bessie Peery, who has been teaching a private school at her home, will close her school Tuesday.

The Children's Missionary Society met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Gose Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Maggie Barnes and two children Robert Henry and Janie, of the Cove are visiting Mrs. F. M. Moss.

Miss Maude Grubb, who has attended school at Ceres, Va., the past winter, returned to her home Thursday.

J. B. Meek, who has been in Chicago for sometime returned to his home on Saturday with eighty head of cattle.

Miss Annie Tarter, who has been governing in the home of W. L. Davis for the past winter, left for her home in Rural Retreat last Thursday.

Dr. Wilson, of Abba Valley is practicing for Dr. Higginbotham while he is in Richmond. His sister came to the Garden with him, and is the guest of Miss May Moss this week.

Miss Etta Greever, who has been suffering for months with kidney trouble, left Sunday for Richmond to have an operation performed. Her sister, Clara, and Dr. Higginbotham went with her.

Shafts to Honor Outlaws' Victims.

Hon. Joshua F. Bullett, of Big Stone Gap, president of the Virginia Bar Association, on Monday made announcement of the selection of a committee to arrange for the erection of suitable monuments to the memories of Judge Thornton L. Cassie and a Commonwealth's Attorney Foster, who were killed in the courthouse at Hillsville on March 14th by the Allen clan of outlaws, following the conviction of one of their number. The committee is composed of the following well known attorneys:

George E. Caskey, of Lynchburg, chairman; Lucian H. Cooke, of Roanoke; W. A. Moncreur, of Richmond, and D. L. Groner, of Norfolk.

Coupled with the appointment of the committee is a request from President Bullett that the committee convene in Charlottesville at the Claremont hotel, May 16th at 11 o'clock a. m., to take steps necessary to secure the funds for the erection of the monument.

Paint or Not

Is a horse worth more or less after feed?

Hay and oats are high today; shall I wait today and feed tomorrow?

That's how men do about painting their houses and barns and fences. Paint has been high for several years; and so they waited. Paint is high yet; they are still waiting; thousands of 'em are waiting for paint to fall.

Their property drops a trifle a year and the next job of paint creeps-up; it'll takes more paint by a gallon a year; they don't save a cent, and the property goes-on suffering.

DEVOE

John E. Jackson sells it.

GIANT GLADIATORS DECIDED QUESTION.

Story of How Tazewell Came to be Located On Its Present Site Related by Rev. Asa Thompson—Day of the Valiant "Bully"

"When a weary of this living, It's gaining and it's giving, It's toiling and it's traffic, And it's tame pursuit of gold, I recall at what a high rate Lived the poet, knight and pirate As they fought and sung and swaggared In the bloody days of old."

There comes to us all a harking back to the primitive feelings of our forebears, a retroversion to the feeling that might is right. In the letter of the reverent gentleman that follows may be found a note of exaltation that one of his names was the victor in the combat by which the destinies of a town were decided.

The article following appeared in the Sandy Valley News of last week, and was contributed by Rev. Asa Thompson, a member of the well known family of that name, and who gave their name to the valley just over the Peak south of town. Rev. Thompson is a Christian gentleman and a conscientious, earnest and zealous worker in his Master's vineyard. His letter follows:

At the request of a Tazewell county citizen I make this statement, my father was Amos Thompson and I was born in Thompson Valley on the 16th, of April, 1832. I am a Baptist minister, engaged now, and have been for sixteen years in ministerial work in Buchanan county, Virginia, and Pike county, Ky., and have been a Baptist minister for forty-three years.

When I was a child in Thompson Valley, Tazewell county, Virginia, from a number of people including my father, Col. William Thompson, Capt. William Buchanan and Col. Archie Thompson, it was my understanding that the county seat for the county of Tazewell was selected as I now state.

There was a contention among citizens of the then new county, whether the county seat should be located at the Wynn farm, now known as the Capt. Ed. Peery place, or at the old Peery place, where it is now located.

The citizens of the county met at the old Peery place, or the town's present location, to decide where the court house should be built and after heated discussions between the people from the west end and the east end of the county, it was decided that the west end people who wanted the court house built on the old Peery place, or what is now the town of Tazewell, instead of on the Wynn place should select their man and the east end people should select their man and the two fight the question out.

The man who whipped the west end, the location. The west end selected Col. William Thompson, who was frequently called, "Big Toothed Thompson" and the east end selected one of the Harmanes; I do not recall his given name but I think it was